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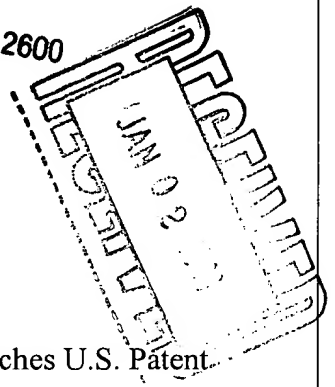
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Commissioner for Patents
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicant hereby attaches U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including copies of the references listed thereon together with the English language abstracts. These references were cited in the European Search Report of the underlying EPO Patent application. A copy of the European Search Report is also enclosed. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguishable over these references.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(a). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(a) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101

TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

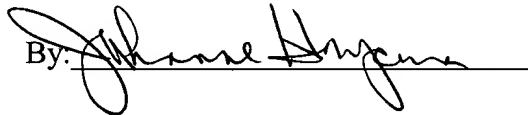
Respectfully submitted,



Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,315

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 17, 2002 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: 

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.

130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567